

Attachment 12

Disadvantaged Community Assistance

**Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation
Prop 84, Round 1**

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

**Santa Ana One Water One Watershed IRWM
Prop 84, Round 1 Implementation Proposal**

Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Providing environmental justice or support to disadvantaged communities (DAC's) within the Santa Ana River Watershed was one of "ten pillars" of the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) planning process. A detailed demographic description of DAC's can be found in the Environmental Justice description (Chapter 5.10) of the OWOW plan. In addition, a regional map showing the location of DAC's within the Watershed can be found in the workplan in the Regional Map section. The Environmental Justice analysis in the OWOW plan went beyond simple description of the location of DAC's. A bilingual (English/Spanish) facilitator had a series of outreach meetings in three locations within the Santa Ana River Watershed. The meetings were held in Orange (Santa Ana), Riverside (Lake Elsinore) and San Bernardino (Colton). Most of these meetings were part of on-going community group meetings, usually associated with a housing authority.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss water issues, especially water quality, and to receive input from the community. Having the meetings in conjunction with established group where a known and trusted community leader introduced the facilitator allowed the community members to speak freely. Many were also more comfortable communicating in Spanish.

In all cases, the facilitator found that conventional communication tools used by public health and water agencies are not penetrating the community. In these communities, information is mostly passed by word-of-mouth by trusted community members. In addition community members were concerned about their water quality and often purchased water from vending machines because of perceived superior quality.

A more in-depth outreach effort in the Quail Valley section of the City of Menifee was later conducted in conjunction with Eastern Municipal Water District as the area has severe water quality problems stemming from inadequate septic systems. This process was based on community meetings, door-to-door visits and attendance at community events. As the public gained trust in the facilitator, it was possible to discuss and develop potential solutions to water problems in the area.

Projects proponents claiming to serve DAC's are discussed individually below. As noted earlier, no project proponents are requesting a waiver of the 25% local match requirement.

Ground Water Replenishment System- Flow Equalization

The GWRS Flow Equalization Project was not solely developed in its entirety to address critical water supply and quality needs of disadvantaged communities. However, OCWD serves an ethnically, culturally and economically diverse region and strives to manage its water resources in a conscious and equitable manner. The project benefits the entire population within Orange County Water District's (OCWD) service area. This project was developed through a process open to the public and approved by representatives appointed and directly elected to advocate on behalf of their respective communities on groundwater issues. This project will increase local water supply resources in north and central Orange County.

Currently, OCWD charges a replenishment assessment of \$249 per acre-foot of groundwater extracted. In comparison, the only other water supply available in Orange County is imported water which is currently priced at \$700 per acre-foot. Providing high-quality water at the lowest possible cost is particularly beneficial to the economically disadvantaged communities that OCWD serves.

Note that OCWD will fund the O&M costs of the GWRS Flow Equalization Project with its own funds through the revenue generated by the replenishment assessment payments from OCWD's groundwater producing agencies. Semiannually, OCWD collects replenishment assessment from groundwater producing agencies that pump groundwater from OCWD's groundwater basin. Every fiscal year, OCWD budgets the O&M costs of this project under the general fund. No IRWM Implementation Grant funds for O&M costs are being requested in this grant application.

Sludge Dewatering, Odor Control, and Primary Sludge Thickening (P1-101)

P1-101 does not specifically address a critical water supply or water quality need for a disadvantaged community. However, the P1-101 Project will increase the volume of treated wastewater by up to 34 mgd (38,000 afy) to yield up to 30 mgd (31,000 afy) of recycled water for Orange County. The purified recycled water will be a new local supply with much lower salinity than the alternative “no project” imported water. While the entire OCSD service area is not disadvantaged, the P1-101 Project will benefit certain “pockets” of disadvantaged communities within the County.

Both this project and the GWRS project serve the community of Santa Ana where OWOW outreach efforts targeted low income residents.

Santa Ana Watershed Vireo Monitoring Program

The Santa Ana Watershed Association's (SAWA) biological monitoring of endangered, native and invasive birds in the watershed directly supports SAWA's efforts to remove and maintain control over approximately 4,000 acres of restored native habitat in the Santa Ana Watershed that was formerly covered in *Arundo donax* or Giant Reed. These efforts promote healthy native riparian ecosystems.

Healthy riparian ecosystems improve recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, and improve the appearance of the habitat along the Santa Ana River, which runs through several disadvantaged communities in the Inland Empire between Redlands and the Prado Basin. However, it is difficult to quantify in monetary terms the benefits to these communities of healthy riparian ecosystems.

Perris II Desalter

The Project, in its programmatic context, will initially serve approximately 26,125 households in the service area of the existing Menifee and Perris I Desalters (Desalter Service Area), which includes the communities of Menifee, Sun City, north Canyon Lake and Quail Valley (see attached figure), all of which were recently incorporated into the City of Menifee (Quail Valley is recognized as a small community by the State Water Resources Control Board.) Said communities are all located within the Perris Valley of Western Riverside County, California.

The Desalter Service Area was determined based on engineering data and the Census Tracts within the Desalter Service Area were identified (see attached figure). The Desalter Service Area contains all or portions of Census Tracts 427.08, 427.09, 427.10, 427.11, 427.12, and 427.13. The MHI of each of the individual Census Tracts was determined based on Census 2000 data.

Based on Census 2000 data, California Median Household Income (MHI) in 1999 dollars is \$47,493 within the desalter service area. Low-income areas (defined as areas with MHI less than or equal to 80% of the California MHI) within the Desalter Service Area have MHIs ranging from 50% to 69% of the California MHI, and are located in the northern portions of the Desalter Service Area. The MHI in Quail Valley is approximately 68.10% of the California MHI, and the MHI for Sun City is approximately 62.78% of the California MHI. The estimated population of the Desalter Service Area is 45,167, of which 18,259 (40.43%) are in the low-income areas referenced above.

The communities of Quail Valley and Sun City within the City of Menifee receive a portion of their potable water needs from the Perris I and Menifee Desalters. The desalters provide these communities in excess of one-third of their potable water supplies at varying times of the year; however, this supply is not consistent due to limitations on groundwater production. Currently, water produced by the desalters is blended with treated SWP water produced by the Henry J. Mills Filtration plant.

The Project consists of the construction of a new, fully-developed and equipped brackish water well within the Lakeview/Hemet North Groundwater Management Zone, which will on the order of 1,000 AF/yr of brackish feed water to the existing Menifee and Perris I Desalters located within the Perris Valley, then ultimately supply brackish feed water to the Perris II Desalter (planned to be operational in 2013). The Project will provide on the order of an additional 700 AF/yr of desalinated domestic water supply to the communities of Menifee, Sun City, north Canyon Lake and Quail Valley (portions of Census tracts 427.08, 427.09, 427.10, 427.11, 427.12, and 427.13; see attached figure)

O&M of the Project will be covered by the EMWD General Operating Fund. Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), as the water supplier, is the representative for the disadvantaged communities in this case. EMWD is a public agency, and the meetings of its board of directors are open to the public. Public input on matters before the board is welcomed. One of EMWD's five board members is Ronald W. Sullivan (Board President), who represents Division 4, which includes the disadvantaged community. EMWD communicates and coordinates with SAWPA, which is the regional water planning authority.

EMWD works to ensure that all communities within its service area are provided with reliable supplies of high-quality water, regardless of whether they are disadvantaged or not. EMWD provides technical assistance in the form of engineering, hydrogeological, and water services to communities within its service area.

Perchlorate Wellhead Treatment System Pipelines

The Year 2000 census data did not appear up-to-date for the communities in the Project area. An alternative method based on an “income survey” was used to verify the MHI. The Project area income survey is based on 2007 incomes as collected by the Claritas Division of Nielson Company in 2008 and described in the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA's) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) completed in 2009 and adopted in 2010. Refer to the Environmental Justice Chapter of the OWOW plan for further reference.

The State of California defines a census tract as a “Disadvantaged Community” if the household income is less than 80% of the California State median household income (MHI) and a “Severely Disadvantaged Community” if the household income is less than 60% of the MHI. In 2007 the California MHI was \$58,361 as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Therefore, a census tract with an MHI below \$46,689 qualifies as disadvantaged and below \$35,017 as severely disadvantaged communities. According to the income survey completed for SAWPA in 2008, the nine census tracts listed below are disadvantaged because all have 2007 MHIs below \$46,689. These census tracts will also be served treated water from the “Perchlorate Wellhead Treatment System Pipeline Project”, as shown on [Att12.WVWD.DAC.1of3.pdf](#).

<i>Census Tract</i>	<i>County Location</i>	<i>Median Household Income 2007</i>
06071003300	San Bernardino County	\$32,477*
06071003402	San Bernardino County	\$26,771*
06071003403	San Bernardino County	\$40,112
06071003501	San Bernardino County	\$41,264
06071003502	San Bernardino County	\$44,891
06071003601	San Bernardino County	\$41,730
06071003700	San Bernardino County	\$23,889*
06071003900	San Bernardino County	\$42,500
06071004000	San Bernardino County	\$41,896

Note: In 2007 a census tract with an MHI below \$46,689 qualifies as disadvantaged.

* Indicates “Severely Disadvantaged”.

According to the income survey completed for SAWPA in 2008, over 50% of the census tracts within the Project area are disadvantaged (with one tract being severely disadvantaged), as shown above. Groundwater contaminated with perchlorate, VOCs and nitrates has severely limited water production in these disadvantaged areas. Water produced and treated as a result of this project would be used to serve these communities thereby reducing the need to purchase expensive imported water supplies.

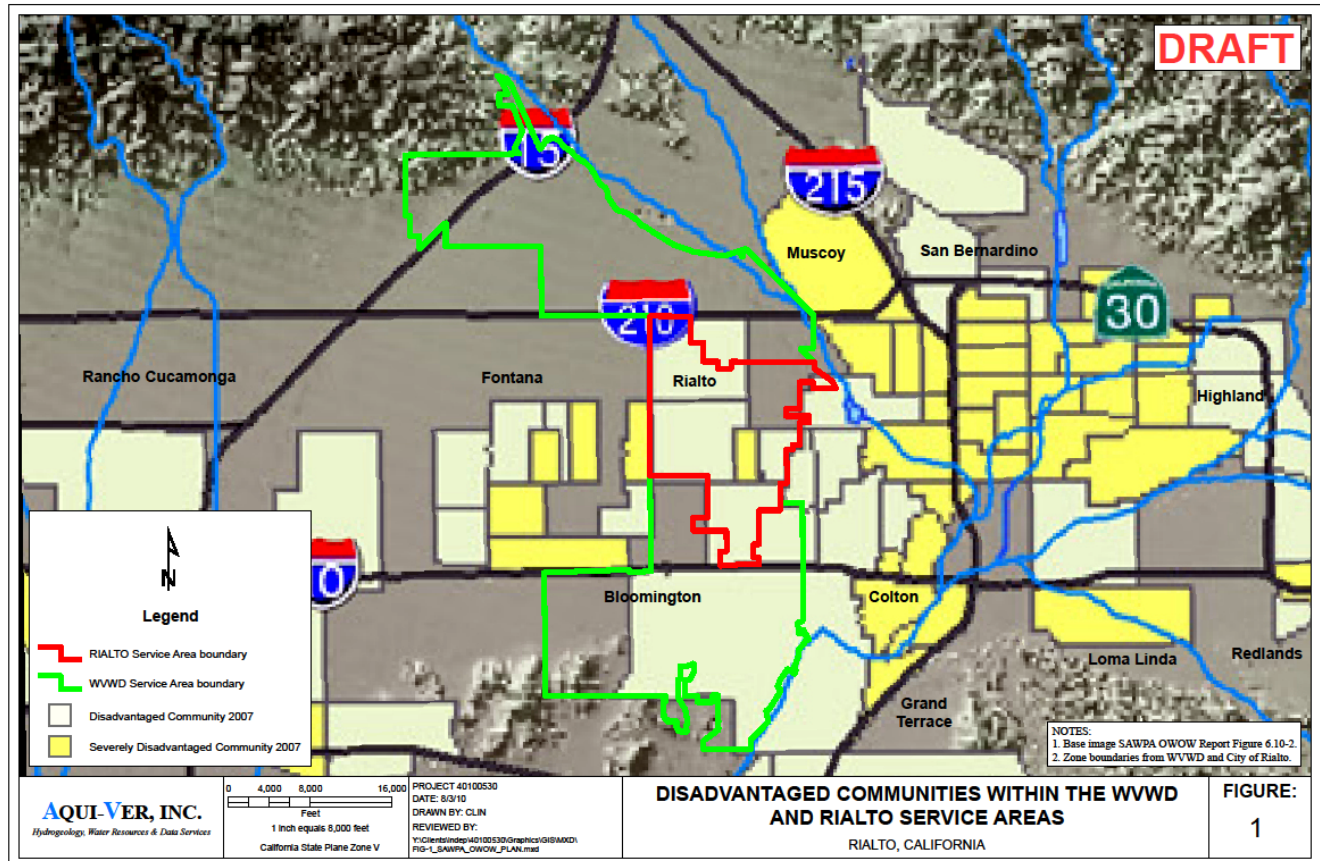
Support letters for this project are attached and ([Att12.WVWD.DAC.3of3.pdf](#)) include:

- Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod Thirty-Second Senate District
- Wilmer Amina Carter Assembly Member – District 62
- Bill Emmerson Assembly Member – District 63

WVWD will conduct public meetings after the "Feasibility Study for the Wellhead Treatment Project" is complete. At this meeting, all the surrounding communities (including DACs) will be invited to attend. This meeting will summarize the proposed project and provide an opportunity for any attendees to give feedback.

Attachments

Perchlorate Wellhead Treatment System Pipeline Project



Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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(916) 445-0128 FAX

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SUITE 100B
MONTCLAIR, CA 91763
(909) 621-2783
(909) 621-1483 FAX
357 W. SECOND STREET
SUITE 1
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
(909) 381-3833
(909) 381-0739 FAX

California State Senate

SENATOR
GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND
RETIREMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIR
ALAMEDA CORRIDOR
PACHOLATZ CONTAMINATION

April 21, 2009

Ms. Carole H. Beswick
Chairwoman, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Dear Chairwoman Beswick,

I request the Board's support for Agenda Item 14, and Resolution No. R8-2009-0027 before the Board at your April 24, 2009 meeting.

I commend the efforts of the West Valley Water District and City of Rialto in working with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to redirect much needed Cleanup and Abatement Account funds to support the joint Wellhead Treatment Project as described in Agenda Item 14. The West Valley Water District, City of Rialto and their water customers have been adversely affected by groundwater contamination for several years. Our communities greatly respect the efforts of the Regional Board to clean up groundwater contamination, and the Wellhead Treatment Project will go a long way toward assisting the water purveyors and their customers to continue recovering from the effects of this contamination. With this in mind, I urge the Regional Board to approve of Resolution No. R8-2009-0027.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me; if I am unavailable, please contact my Chief of Staff, Don Wilcox, at 916 651-4032. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

Gloria Negrete McLeod
GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD
32nd Senate District

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0062
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SUBCOMMITTEE
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
PREVENTION AND
RESPONSE

April 21, 2009

Carole H. Beswick
Chairwoman, Santa Ana Regional
Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Re: Support for Agenda Item 14, Resolution Revising a Request for Cleanup and Abatement Account Funds Related to Perchlorate and Volatile Organic Compound Contamination of Groundwater in the Rialto Area

Dear Ms. Beswick,

I respectfully request the Board's support for Agenda Item 14, and Resolution No. R8-2009-0027 before the Board at your April 24, 2009 meeting.

I commend the efforts of the West Valley Water District and the City of Rialto in working with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to redirect much needed Cleanup and Abatement Account funds to support the joint Wellhead Treatment Project as described in Agenda Item 14. The West Valley Water District, City of Rialto and their water customers have been adversely affected by groundwater contamination for several years. Our communities greatly respect the efforts of the Regional Board to clean up groundwater contamination, and the Wellhead Treatment Project will go a long way towards assisting the water purveyors and their customers to continue recovering from the effects of this contamination. With this in mind, I urge the Regional Board to approve of Resolution No. R8-2009-0027.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you should have any questions please contact me at my Capitol office at (916)-319-2062.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amina".

Wilmer Amina Carter
Assembly Member – District 62

WAC:sa

Cc: Earl Tillman, President, West Valley Water District
Anthony "Butch" Araiza, General Manager, West Valley Water District

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Assembly California Legislature

BILL EMMERSON
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SIXTY-THIRD DISTRICT

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ETHICS, CO-CHAIR
BUDGET
HEALTH

April 22, 2009

Carole H. Beswick
Chairwoman, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501.3348

Dear Carole:

I respectfully request the Board's support for Agenda Item 14 and Resolution No. RE-2009-0027 before the Board at your April 24, 2009 meeting.

I commend the efforts of the West Valley Water District and City of Rialto in working with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to redirect much needed Cleanup and Abatement funds to support the joint Wellhead Treatment Project as described in Agenda Item 14. The West Valley Water District, City of Rialto and their water customers have been adversely affected by groundwater contamination for several years. Our communities greatly respect the efforts of the Board to clean up groundwater contamination, and the Wellhead Treatment Project will go a long way towards assisting the water purveyors and their customers to continue recovering from the effects of this contamination. With this in mind, I urge the Board to approve Resolution No. RS-2009-0027.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 319-2063.

Sincerely,



BILL EMMERSON
Assemblyman, 63rd District